

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE—VETOING
SENATE BILL NO. 26.

Governor's Office,
Austin, Texas, March 27, 1913.

To the Senate:

I return herewith Senate bill No. 26 without approval, the same being "An Act to establish the Central West Texas State Normal," etc.

The State has already established four normal schools. Two of these schools were originally established as private institutions, but by systematic effort and influence the Legislature was induced to take them over as State colleges. The first normal school established by the State is located at Huntsville and has now approximately 582 students in attendance. The second one established is located at Denton, with 750 students in attendance. The third normal is located at San Marcos with 538 students in attendance, and the fourth one is at Canyon City, on the Plains, with 518 students in attendance, making the total attendance on the four normal schools 2388. With comparatively small expense the capacity of these four institutions can be increased to five thousand. A duplication in the expenditure of money for the establishment of additional normal schools would be unnecessary, and is an unnecessary and unjustifiable tax upon the revenues of the State. An increase in the number of these schools will have a tendency to deprive those already in operation of needed appropriations for their support and development.

The four normal colleges already in operation required an appropriation by the last Legislature of \$335,695.00. An additional normal college would require an appropriation in the sum of \$100,000.00 for its building, and approximately \$60,000 per annum thereafter to support it, that being about the average required for the four colleges already established.

Two years ago I vetoed a bill establishing a fifth normal school at Waco for the reasons assigned for disapproving this measure. The additional school provided for two years ago and the one sought to be established now are not needed. These bills are evidently passed in response to efforts of particular localities who want a State institution located in their midst. If this policy is to obtain and continue, then we should, in one bill, provide for the estab-

lishment of a State normal school in each senatorial district in Texas, and be done with it. Such a provision, however, would entail an annual expenditure for their support and maintenance of approximately three million dollars, a sum of money far in excess of what is now being collected annually from ad valorem taxes.

The experience of other States, like Oklahoma and Nebraska, in the establishment of numerous normal colleges has been disastrous. The Governors of those States, in their annual messages to the Legislature, recommended the abandonment of some which had been established.

There ought to be an end of the "scattering" period of locating State educational institutions. They should be concentrated where energy and resources could be combined to make them first-class in every respect.

Respectfully submitted,

O. B. COLQUITT,
Governor of Texas.